

Mississippi Hypertension Specialist Initiative

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program

What is the Mississippi Hypertension Specialist Initiative?

The Mississippi Hypertension Specialist Initiative is a unique, population-based quality improvement initiative geared toward improving cardiovascular health outcomes of Mississippians. The goals of the Initiative are to:

- Increase physician's knowledge and skills in managing complex and treatment resistant hypertension.
- Increase the number of designated hypertension specialists in Mississippi.
- Increase the utilization of the American Society of Hypertension's (ASH) hypertension registry in Mississippi.
- Improve clinical outcomes in patients with hypertension.

What is the Plan of Action for this Mississippi State Department of Health Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program Initiative?

- Collaborate with American Society of Hypertension (ASH)¹ and professional medical affiliates in Mississippi to recruit physicians statewide to participate in the Mississippi Hypertension Initiative.
- Award up to thirty (30) scholarships to eligible physicians who take the 2012 Qualifying Examination for Specialists in Clinical Hypertension and agree to participate in the Hypertension Registry Initiative.
- Provide free CME credits for physicians who participate in the Clinical Hypertension Review Sessions.
- Encourage other physicians to participate in the nationally recognized ASH Hypertension Registry.

What is a Hypertension Specialist?

Hypertension Specialists are recognized physicians with expert skills and knowledge in managing clinical hypertension. Hypertension Specialists are recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA) National Uniform Claims Committee with their own taxonomy code.

What are the qualifications to participate in the Mississippi Hypertension Specialist Initiative?

Please visit <http://www.ptcny.com/clients/ASH/> for a complete listing of all eligibility requirements, registration, and testing locations. *Note:* Non-Specialists may qualify with a letter documenting experience in treating a large population of hypertension patients.

What are some benefits for participating in the Mississippi Hypertension Initiative?

- Reduce heart disease and stroke rates by increasing access to effective care and medications.
- Receive **free** patient educational resources from the Mississippi State Department of Health.
- Achieve the opportunity to have your medical practice designated as an ASH Hypertension Center.

What is the cost to you?

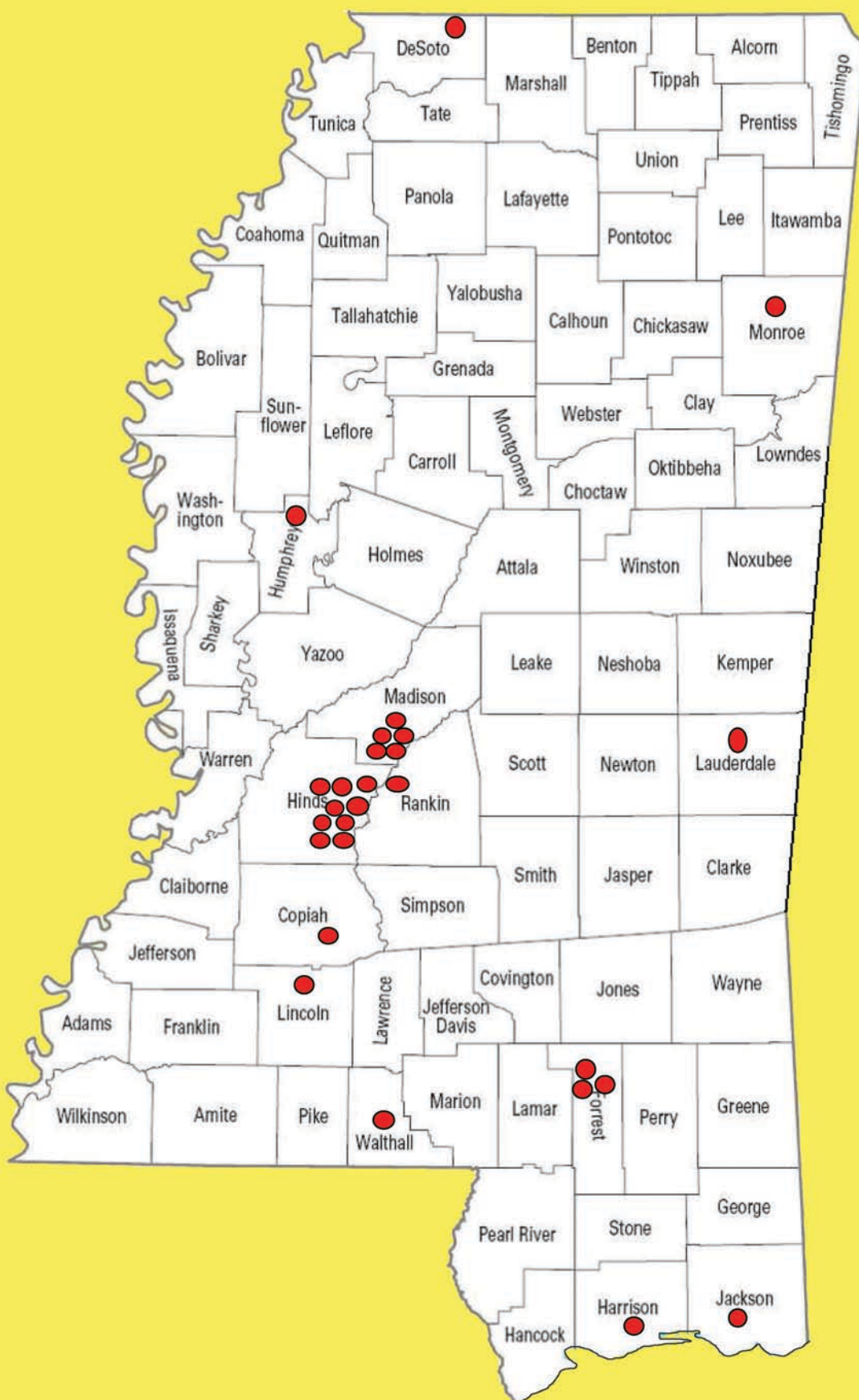
- The examination fee is **free** for up to thirty (30) physicians who meet the eligibility requirements.
- The CMEs offered for participating in the Clinical Hypertension Review Sessions are **free** to all physicians.
- The ASH Hypertension Registry Initiative is **free** to all physicians.

¹The American Society of Hypertension, Inc. (ASH) is the largest US organization dedicated exclusively to hypertension and related cardiovascular disease. The mission of ASH is to promote strategies to prevent hypertension and to improve the care of patients with hypertension and associated disorders (www.ash-us.org).

This initiative is endorsed by the Mississippi Task Force on Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and the American Society of Hypertension, Inc. (ASH).

For more information please contact the Office of Preventive Health at 601-576-7781.

Hypertension Specialists in Mississippi



In Mississippi:

--There are twenty-seven (27) Hypertension Specialists in the State of Mississippi.

--The Hypertension Specialists are located in only 13 of the 82 Mississippi counties.

--The majority of the Hypertension Specialists (56%) are located in metropolitan areas of Mississippi.

| <u>City</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|--------------|---------------|
| Amory | 1 |
| Belzoni | 1 |
| Brookhaven | 1 |
| Flowood | 1 |
| Gautier | 1 |
| Gulfport | 1 |
| Hattiesburg | 3 |
| Hazlehurst | 1 |
| Jackson | 9 |
| Madison | 4 |
| Marion | 1 |
| Olive Branch | 1 |
| Ridgeland | 1 |
| Tylertown | 1 |
| Total | 27 |



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STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH